

Peppermill Lake District News

July 2018

Summer Issue

Highlights:

- July Meeting
- ATV/UTV Update
- High Cap Well Video
- Website Considerations
- Calendar of Events

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A Tale of Two Counties

On the wonderful Peppermill Lake Community Facebook page, hosted by Lori and Pau Reed, there was a posting about 4 methamphetamine users who were arrested at our public landing just before the 4th of July. Sadly, this is all too common in Adams County like many other parts of the country. Heroin and methamphetamine abuse is very serious here, even showing up in food insecurity and child neglect statistics, now. Young parents are too dependent on drugs to feed and care for their children,

So, even though Adams County is 19th (out of 72) in tourism revenue, it is 69th in health outcomes. We are number 2 in the state for domestic violence, outpacing the National average.

By 2025 it is estimated that 50% of the County's 20,000 residents will be age 60 or older.

We have great year-round tourism revenue but the

County is still ranked as one of the poorest in the State,

The County government hasn't found a way to fully leverage its tourism goldmine for its citizens or its lakes.

On one hand the County is hamstrung by state-imposed property tax levy limits.

On another, the State sees the County as having high property values (due to the lakes) so school state aid is cut despite the fact that most lakefront property is owned by non-residents or part-time residents who have no children attending school here.

The half-cent County sales tax levy is earmarked for managing debt service, a good thing, but limits how tourism spending can serve other County needs.

And while lake property accounts for over 40% of the property tax base, we have five lakes on the State Impaired Waters list and have had no County

Conservationist, realistically, since January.

Lake Districts don't live in a vacuum and while we have some control over our destiny through our modest annual budget, we are being asked to do more with less—less county support and less state support..

The Town of Rome is now relying on two former Land and Water Conservation Dept. employees to help shape policy for the Tri-lakes area because they cannot count on the County, for example.

As we discuss budgeting for 2019 at the next meeting, we need to take keep this context in mind. The Board will be discussing a number of things at the next meeting as we prepare a budget for your consideration at the Annual Meeting.

The Board does not want to act or live in a vacuum, either.

See you on the 28th!

This and That

- Jackson Township's website is now at www.townofjackson.us
- Peppermilllake.us now has a map of the District boundaries posted
- Stay current with area activities. Check out the Event Calendar at our Website.
- To find high capacity well applicants in Adams County go to http://dnr.wi.gov/wateruse/pub_v3_ext/

Please support the local economy!



ATV/UTV Update

The Town of Jackson held an hour-and-a-half public hearing on April 21 to collect feedback on opening all Town of Jackson roads to ATV/UTV usage. Approximately 60 people attended the hearing. The feedback was fairly evenly divided between those for and against and many of the comments reflected many of the desires of "weekenders" and "locals" alike. No one was shy about their opinions.

In June, the Jackson Town Board, by a 3 to zero vote, agreed to a more limited map of permitted roads within the town which excluded Peppermill Lake, parts of Wolf Lake, and other selected roads. Before the ordinance can go into effect, two things have to occur. The County must approve the portions of the routes that require crossing County roads and the South Adams County Road Runners, the advocates of the ordinance, must pay for and install state-approved signage. Until then, ATV and UTV riders must adhere to current road restrictions.

ATV mania seems to be sweeping across the County. The City of Adams approved all City roads for ATV use on July 2, The Towns of New Chester (just above us) and Dell Prairie, over by Fawn Lake, are also in different stages of approving ordinances for their respective towns.

Note: At the July 17, County Board meeting, the Board approved the Jackson ATV route map by a 17 to 3 vote. Now it is a matter of getting the signage up.

High Capacity Wells Video From CSWAC

Unmanaged and Uncontrolled - High Capacity Wells are Drying Our Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands is available for viewing by individuals and groups. The 17 minute video was created to fill the need expressed by water advocates for a short, easy-to-digest piece that can be used for self and group education. The video starts with an

explanation of groundwater connections with surface water, how high capacity well pumping has exploded over the past few decades, and how our surface waters have been impacted as a result. The video takes on several false claims of the pumping industry - groundwater pumping increases streamflow (who knew?), trees

are the problem (even in places where no trees exist), and that water advocates are untruthful environmental activist - as well as the politics that prevent us from making progress on this issue.

[note: This video is now posted at the Peppermill Lake website. We have been members of CSWAC for over two years now.]

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 LWCD mtg	9	10	11 Lake Alliance meeting
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 County Bd meeting	22	23	24	25
26	27 Harvesting begins	28	29	30	31	

Revisiting our Website

At the upcoming Board Meeting we will be discussing our Website and how to support it.

Right now our site is pretty simple and is maintained by the Board. Our HTML skills are limited. For example, the script that controls the menu at the top of each page doesn't play nicely with mobile devices.

Visits to our site are modest but then we are a

small lake. And now the Facebook presence created by the Reeds provides a social dimension that's probably not well suited to Board functions, though things like announcements and such would work well in both worlds.

A web presence is important because we are all very mobile and there should be an official presence that acts as a hub for our official acts at least for transparency's sake. The site is also important for communicating and sharing content with other state and county

agencies.

The Board periodically needs to review its assumptions and its costs. We will be looking at lower cost alternatives that can provide a better user experience at the next meeting.

If you have any suggestions as to what you'd like to see or if you have great HTML skills and would like to take the lead on our site, please let us know!

In the meantime, check out www.peppermilllake.us for the latest information.

Peppermill Lake District

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VISIT US AT

WWW.PEPPERMILLAKE.US

July 28, 2018 Proposed Agenda

8 AM SITE VISIT: PRIOR TO MEETING THE BOARD WILL VISIT BRIENINGER PROPERTY

9 AM - Jackson Town Hall, 4th & HWY 82

Call to order—Proper meeting Notice notification—Approval of Agenda—Approval of Minutes—Treasurer's Report

Reports- aquatic plants , audit committee

Citizen Comment

Unfinished Business

- Property tax exemption update
- Lake Leaders report
- Discuss detachment request site visit

New Business

- Discuss/Act on Website services
- Discuss/Act on pursuing Lake Protection Grant proposal
- 2019 Budget Preparation

Announcements/Correspondence

- ACLA Update/dues
- County Update
- CSWAC Update
- Town of Jackson update

Calendar update — Next meeting—Adjourn